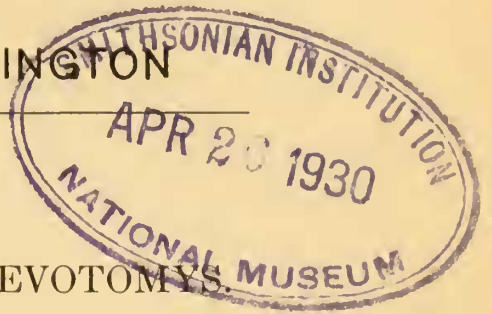


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



AN EARLIER NAME FOR THE GENUS *EVOTOMYS*.

BY T. S. PALMER.

For some years I have suspected that the name *Evotomys*, proposed by Dr. Elliott Coues in 1874 (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1874, 186-187), would prove to be antedated by some earlier name. It seemed almost incomprehensible that such a well-marked group as the Red-backed Mice of Europe, Asia and North America should have remained so long unnamed by the various active workers in vertebrate zoology in Europe during the last century. This suspicion now proves to have been correct, as the group was actually named in Germany many years ago.

Through the kindness of Dr. Chas. W. Richmond my attention has recently been called to a rare volume in the Smithsonian Deposit, Library of Congress, entitled 'Isis. Encyclopädische Zeitschrift vorzüglich für Naturgeschichte, Physiologie, etc.' This series of Isis, of which six numbers appeared in 1850, forms a small octavo, edited by G. Tilesius,¹ and published by the "Münchener Verein für Naturkunde." It is distinct from, and subsequent to, the better known one in quarto which ceased publication in 1848. In the second number of Isis, 1850, pp. 27-29, Tilesius published an article on 'Glirium species in Bavaria nonnullae,' in which he formally described two new genera of rodents, *Clethrionomys* (p. 28) based on *Mus glareolus* Schreber and *M. rutilus* Pallas, and *Clonomys* (p. 28) based on *Mus betulinus* Pallas. As Tilesius mentioned no type for *Clethrionomys*, *Mus rutilus* Pallas, from Siberia, the earliest known species, is here designated as the type. The name thus antedates *Evotomys* Coues by 24 years. *Clonomys* does not affect names now recognized, as it is a synonym of *Sicista* Gray, 1827, and *Sminthus* Nathusius, 1839.

¹In No. 6, pp. 81 and 96, occurs the statement, "Dr. Johannes Gistel, *genannt G. Tilesius*."

